



Perryfields Junior School

The Friday Flyer

Week 6 – October 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our new group of pupil leaders, the Diversity Defenders, took centre stage this week as they led our Spotlight on Black History assembly. They spoke with great confidence and clarity, sharing powerful messages and inspiring the rest of the school to reflect on the importance of celebrating Black history, culture, and contributions. A huge well done to them for their excellent leadership and teamwork.

It has also been fantastic to see so many children getting involved in teacher-led clubs this week. From the challenge of Orienteering Club to exciting experiments in Science Club, pupils embraced new opportunities, developed skills, and most importantly, had lots of fun along the way.

On Thursday, Miss Cole led a thoughtful assembly for World Mental Health Day. The children explored what mental health means, reflected on their own wellbeing, and discussed different strategies they use to manage their emotions in challenging situations. Today, the school was awash with yellow as we came together to mark the day and raise funds to support our school's own mental health provision.

Finally, a big congratulations to our two mixed Tag Rugby teams, who represented the school brilliantly at this week's inter-school competition. Their incredible skill, determination, and sportsmanship made us all proud. Well done to every player involved!

Wishing you all a restful and happy weekend.

Mrs S Edwards



Pupil of the Week

Cowell: Eva
Seuss: Julia
Dahl: Thanvi
Lewis: Bhargavi
Walliams: Reyansh
Rowling: Buddy
Tolkien: Nakshatra
Morpurgo: Robyn
Pullman: Hayden

Award for
Outstanding Manners
Ismail- Seuss Class
Maelyn – Pullman Class

PE Award
Harry – Rowling Class

Mrs Siddall's Attendance Award
Tolkien Class – 100%

ATTENDANCE

The national expectation for attendance is 96%. The government has clarified the position regarding the term 'regular' attendance. It means children must be in school **EVERY DAY**. Every second counts at Perryfields. We **must** work together to improve attendance and punctuality even more.

Year 3	98.8%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	99.7%
Year 6	95.3%



Coming Up This Half Term

Friday 10 th October	Parents' Evening slots go live at 7pm – please book through School Spider
Tuesday 14 th October	Student-Led Allergy-Friendly Cake Sale – email sent 8/10/25
Wednesday 15 th October	WW2 day workshop year 6 – email sent 12/9/25
Thursday 16 th October	Parents' Evening slots close at 9am
Friday 17 th October	Ancient Greek workshop year 4 – email sent 12/9/25 – volunteers needed
Monday 20 th October	Parents Evening – email sent 9/10/25
Tuesday 21 st October	Life in Saxon Britain workshop year 5 – email sent 10/9/25
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents Evening – email sent 9/10/25
Thursday 23 rd October	Year 6 Enterprise Day – email sent 8/10/25
Thursday 23 rd October	Break the Rules Day! – email sent 6/10/25

Reminders/Notices

Harvest Festival: We are collecting for the Chelmsford Food Bank – please bring donations to the school office. Thank you.

PE Kits: Children should have a pe kit in school every day. Children should be able to remove earrings on their own.

Please see below our menu.

Please note that we can also provide a packed lunch if your child would prefer this. This will be either the baguette, wrap or soft roll and also includes a drink, fruit, cucumber sticks and the dessert of the day.

Week: One						
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday						
Main course	Meat	Cheese & Tomato Baguette Pizza	Tuna,Cheese,Ham & Tuna + Sweetcorn Baguette	Roast Gammon Steak	Chicken Fajitas	Omega 3 Fish Fingers
	Vegetarian	Cheese & Tomato Baguette Pizza	As Above	Garlic and Herb Roast fillet	Mexican Bean Fajitas	Cheese Pinwheels
	Gluten Free	Gluten Free Pizza	Gluten Free Wraps	As Above	Chicken Fajitas	Gluten Free Fish Fingers
	Jacket Potato	Tuna & Cheese	Cheese & Beans	Beans & Tuna	Cheese & Tuna	Tuna,Cheese & Beans
	Side Dish	Coleslaw Potato Salad	Cucumber Raisins	Gravy	Couscous	Chips & Beans
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Salad Bar	Salad Bar	Potato Slice Shredded cabbage cauliflower	Broccoli	Salad Bar
	Packed Lunch	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Wrap (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)	Baguette (Tuna, Cheese or Ham)
	Dessert	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Victoria Sponge	Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Jelly	Oat cookies
	Drinks	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk	Water/Milk

NEARLY SOLD OUT!!!

Perryfields Film Night

Friday 17th October

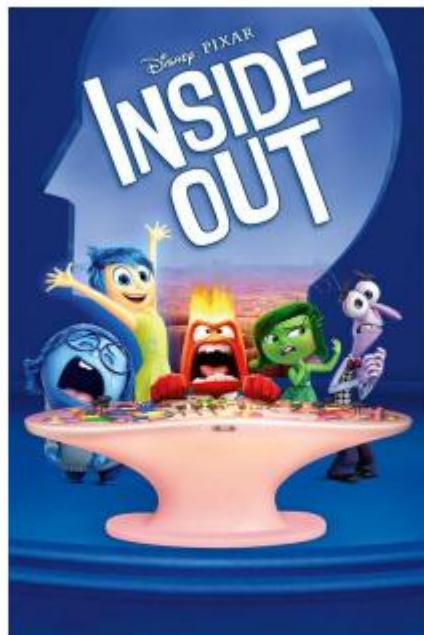
3:15pm-5:30pm

£5 each

***Includes a drink and
popcorn***

Spaces are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment

**Please place cash in an envelope, labelled with your child's
name and class and bring to the school office**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial Intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot. There are now numerous 'virtual friend' apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt it soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI companions may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. As a result, there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could potentially hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with children and perhaps do your own research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate, it's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



The National College

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Join us this Half Term for an out-of-this-world experience! Get hands-on with themed crafts beneath the magnificent Mars: War & Peace art installation.

WHAT'S ON FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Dive into space-themed creativity with a variety of activities available each day:

- Cosmic crafts, make some colourful space themed creations inspired by Mars, including beautiful origami peace doves.
- Let your imagination soar with our popular Lego stay and play
- Add to our milky way where we'll be making an evolving interactive artwork

Plus, you get to marvel at the Red Planet!



BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

Spaces for craft activities are limited so book your session online today by visiting our website or scanning the QR code opposite.

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/mars

Chelmsford Cathedral, New Street,
Chelmsford, CM1 1TY

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets include entry to the craft session and viewing of the Mars: War & Peace installation.

Children (5-16 yrs)	£3.50
Adults	£5.00
Under 5s	FREE

All children must be accompanied by a paying adult.



HALF TERM UNDER MARS!

**Children's Activities
at Chelmsford Cathedral**

27 October – 30 October: 10am – 12 Noon

